

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 ORM-01 DHA-02 DPW-01 SCS-03

SCA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 AGR-05

AID-05 OMB-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 /102 W

----- 040997

R 101142Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1084

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 19061

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, UNHCR, TH, LA, VS

SUBJECT: UNHCR PROGRAM IN THAILAND

REF: BANGKOK 18769

1. UN HIGH COMMISSIONER SADRUDDIN AGA KHAN CALLED ME THIS AFTERNOON TO COMMENT ON HIS VISIT TO THAILAND. HE SAID THAT AS I KNEW HE HAD VISITED NAN AND ARANYAPRATHET AND HE FELT THAT A GREAT DEAL OF PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE BOTH IN THE FIELD AND IN BANGKOK TO GET THE UNHCR PROGRAM OFF THE GROUND.

2. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER SAID THAT HE HAD MADE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE RTG WHICH WOULD PERMIT HIM TO OPEN FIELD OFFICES AND THAT HE HAD FIRM COMMITMENTS THAT HIS REPRESENTATIVES WOULD HAVE COMPLETE ACCESS TO ALL REFUGEE SITES IN THAILAND. ALTHOUGH HE HAD NOT BEEN PERMITTED TO VISIT SOME AREAS FOR
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SECURITY REASONS, HIS PEOPLE WOULD GO EVERYWHERE. IF

HELICOPTERS WERE NOT AVAILABLE THEY WOULD WALK* THE RTG ACCEPTED THE IDEA THAT UNHCR REPRESENTATIVES IN THE FIELD WOULD ASSURE THE RECEIPT OF SUPPLIES AND WOULD CONDUCT LIAISON WITH THE RTG AT ALL LEVELS CONNECTED WITH REFUGEE MATTERS.

3. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER SAID HE HAD EMPHASIZED TO FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI THE NEED FOR UNHCR TO BE ABLE TO REPORT FULLY TO GOVERNMENTS SUPPORTING THE PROGRAM ON CONDITIONS IN THE CAMPS. HE SAID THAT HE HAD ALREADY RECEIVED A COMMITMENT FROM THE RTG TO MOVE THE CAMBODIAN REFUGEES FROM THE LOW, FLOODED GROUND THEY OCCUPY IN ARANYAPRATHET AND COMMENTED THAT HE FULLY RECOGNIZED THE NEED FOR URGENT INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT TO REFUGEES IN ALL AREAS AND MOST PARTICULARLY TO THE MEO.

4. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER EMPHASIZED THAT UNHCR WILL NOW URGENTLY NEED INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO DELIVER THE GOODS. HE SAID THAT THE RTG WAS COMMITTED TO UNDERTAKING A MAJOR EFFORT IN SUPPORT OF UNHCR'S SOLICITATION OF FUNDS. FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI WILL BE MEETING WITH THE THAI AMBASSADORS IN EUROPE NEXT WEEK AND HE WILL DIRECT THEM TO APPROACH THE GOVERNMENTS TO WHICH THEY ARE ACCREDITED. CHATCHAI WILL ALSO USE HIS SPEECH BEFORE THE UNGA AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SOLICIT HELP FROM ALL COUNTRIES AND PROMISED TO RAISE THE QUESTION OF SUPPORT FOR UNHCR IN OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORA.

5. I ASKED THE HIGH COMMISSIONER WHETHER HE HAD SORTED OUT THE HANDLING OF CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND. HE SAID HE HAD AND THAT HIS PEOPLE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH US SHORTLY ABOUT THE STICKY RICE. (EARLIER AT A SEATO MEETING I MENTIONED THIS RICE AGAIN TO MFA UNDER SECRETARY PHAEN WHO SAID HE FORESAW NO PROBLEM ON THE RTG SIDE.)

6. I TOLD THE HIGH COMMISSIONER THAT I WAS DELIGHTED TO GET THE FOREGOING INFORMATION AND LEARN THAT HE WAS SO PLEASED WITH THE PROGRESS BROUGHT ABOUT BY HIS VISIT. AS HE KNEW, THERE HAD BEEN A GOOD DEAL OF UNCERTAINTY WITH REGARD TO THE UNHCR PROGRAM AND I FELT HIS VISIT HAD BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

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MOST TIMELY AND REWARDING.

7. COMMENT. WE BELIEVE THAT THE HIGH COMMISSIONER HAS APPLIED TO KIND OF SOCIAL BUT BUSINESS-LIKE PUSH WHICH IS NEEDED IN COUNTRIES LIKE THAILAND AND IT WOULD APPEAR FROM THE ENTHUSIASTIC TONE OF HIS CALL THAT HE BELIEVES HE HAS BEATEN HIS WAY THROUGH THE BUREAUCRATIC BRIAR PATCH IN WHICH UNHCR HAS BEEN WANDERING. HE WILL BE MEETING WITH INTERESTED

AMBASSADORS IN BANGKOK ON SEPTEMBER 11 AT THE SWISS EMBASSY
AND THIS SHOULD GENERATE SOME FURTHER MESSAGES FROM MISSIONS
HERE WHOSE COUNTRIES MAY BE EXPECTED TO CONTRIBUTE.
WHITEHOUSE

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